

Doc. No. 3213

To: Captain D. P. Newton, Legal Section, SCIP.

Subject: Ofuna Temporary POW Camp

This is to reply to your oral request concerning the Ofuna Temporary POW Camp as given to me on May 20th, 1946.

1. What connection had Capt. Itagaki with the Ofuna Temporary POW Camp?

Ans. Capt. Itagaki was the official in charge of POW affairs at the Navy Ministry from August, 1943 and had no direct connection with the Ofuna Temporary POW Camp.

Moreover, as Capt. Itagaki had charge of such multifarious affairs as ceremony, formality, flag-display, regulation of uniforms, protection of military secrets, examination of war prizes and censorship besides that of POW, his visits to the Camp were limited to occasions when he made stopovers at Ofuna on his official visits to Yokosuka. Consequently, he does not know conditions of the Camp in detail.

2. Who were the bureau and division heads at the Navy Ministry who supervised Capt. Itagaki?

Ans. Directors of the Administrative Bureau

Vice-Admiral Takazumi OKA (from Aug., 1943 to July 1944)

Vice-Admiral Takeo TADA (from Aug., 1944 to May 1945)

Vice-Admiral Zenshiro Hoshina (from May 1945 to Sept., 1945)

Chiefs of Division, Administrative Bureau

Rear-Admiral Yoshio YAMAMOTO (from Aug., 1943 to July 1945)

Capt. Hiroshi NAGASAWA (from July 1945 to Sept., 1945)

3. Who ordered the establishment of the Ofuna Temporary POW Camp?

Ans. As there was no convenient structure to temporarily accommodate POWs captured by the Navy until such time as they would be handed over to the Army, it was erected by the Yokosuka Naval Station at the order of the Navy Ministry.

4. When was the Ofuna Temporary POW Camp erected?
Also, from what time were POWs accommodated?

Ans. As there are no records, it cannot be exactly verified but according to the memory of those connected with the matter, it is believed that the camp was erected on April 7, 1942 and POWs were accommodated from that date.

5. Who ordered the accommodation of POWs at Ofuna?

Ans. Whenever POWs were captured by the Navy in Japan or when those captured by the Navy overseas were brought to Japan, orders were issued from the Navy Ministry to the Yokosuka Naval Station which in turn ordered the Yokosuka Naval Guards to have them interned temporarily at Ofuna.

6. Who ordered the transfer of POWs from the Ofuna Camp to the Army?

Ans. Negotiation for transfer to army camps was done by the Navy Ministry and whenever the War Ministry gave its consent, the Navy Ministry ordered the Yokosuka Naval Station which in turn ordered the Yokosuka Naval Guards to carry out the transfer.

/s/ K. ITAGAKI,
Member of Administrative Bureau,
Second Demobilization Ministry.

C E R T I F I C A T E

27 October 1947

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the attached document is a true and correct copy of a statement by K. ITAGAKI, which was delivered to Legal Section on or about 20 May 1946 and that the original of said statement is in my custody as assistant Chief, Criminal Registry Division, Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP, Tokyo, Japan, the original cannot be made available immediately as it is required for the trial of minor war criminals.

/s/ Charles W. Willoughby, Major, Inf.
Asst. Chief of Criminal Registry
Division, Legal Section.

連合軍最高司令部法務部

「D. P. ニートン」大尉宛

題目 大船臨時捕虜收容所

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本文書ハ一九四六年五月二十日私ニ對シテ行ハル大船臨時捕虜收容所ニ關スル貴下口頭尋問ニ對スル回答デアリマス。

一 板垣大佐(海軍)ハ大船臨時捕虜收容所ト如何ナル關係ガアリマシムカ。

答 板垣大佐ハ一九四三年八月方ウ海軍省ニ於ケル捕虜關係事項主任擔當者デアリマシムカ。大船臨時捕虜收容所トハ直接ノ關係ハアリマセンデシム。

尚板垣大佐ハ捕虜關係事務ノ他ニ儀式、禮法、國旗掲揚、服制、軍機保護、戰功調査及檢閲等ノ雜多ナル事務ヲ取扱ツテ来マシムノデ、同大佐、收容所訪問ハ公用ニテ横須賀ニ赴ク際大船ヲ途中下車シタ場合ニ限ラレテ来マシム。從ツテ彼ハ右收容所ノ狀態ヲ詳細ニハ知リマセン。

二 板垣大佐ヲ監督シタ海軍省ニ於ケル局課長ハ誰々デシムカ。

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答 海軍省長

海軍省時國政史(一九四三年八月一日)三頁(二)海軍省時
多田新次(一九四三年八月一日)三頁(三)海軍省時保田
四郎(一九四三年八月一日)三頁(四)海軍省時保田
長ハ海軍少將山本(一九四三年八月一日)三頁(五)海
軍大臣長瀬(一九四三年八月一日)三頁(六)海軍大臣
三 大船臨時捕虜收容所、設置命令ニハ、謹テスル。

答 海軍側ガ捕虜、捕虜、陸軍側ニ引渡サレ、臨時ニ
收容スル便利ト建物ガナカッタ、海軍省、命令ニヨリ、横須
賀鎮守府ガ大船臨時收容所ヲ建テラシム。

四 大船臨時捕虜收容所ハ何時建テラシムカ、又捕虜ガ
收容セシム、何時カニテスル。

答 記録ガナキ、正確ニハ立證出来ズ、本件関係者、
記憶ニヨリマス、在收容所、一九四三年四月二日、建テラシム、
捕虜ハ一日カニ收容サレ、見エラシム。

五 大船ニ捕虜ヲ收容スル命令ニテ、謹テスル。

答 日本ニ海軍ガ捕虜ヲ捕、其都度又、海外ニ
海軍ガ捕、捕虜ガ日本ニ搬送サレ、時、海軍省カ、
横須賀鎮守府ニ對シテ命令カ、更ニ石鎮守
府カ、横須賀海軍監、備隊ニ對シテ捕虜ヲ臨時
ニ大船ニ拘置スル命令カ。

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六. 捕虜ヲ大船收容所カラ陸軍側ニ移スト、誰カ
命令シタカ。
答. 陸軍側收容所へ移管スル交渉、海軍省
之行ニ、陸軍省ガ承諾スト海軍省、横須賀
鎮守府ニ命令シ、更ニ鎮守府ガ横須賀警
備隊ニ対シ其移管ヲ行フ様命令シタ。

才ニ復員省管理局員

ト、板垣 (署名)

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證 明 書

一九四五年十月二十日

茲ニ添付ノ文書、一九四五年五月二十日頃法務部
ニ手交セラルト、板垣、陳述書、真定ニシテ
正確ナル字本ニシテ、上記陳述書、原本、日本、
東京、連合國最高司令部總司令部、法務部
犯罪者登録課次長トシテ、余カ保管ニ居リ、
尙原本、下級 / I.N. MINOR / 戦争犯罪者、裁
判ニ必要ナルヲシテ、現在使用ニ能ハザルニトラ
証明ス。

法務部犯罪者登録課次長
步兵少佐

「チャールズ・W. ヴァービー」

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